GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2132
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2000
DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL LAND
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a vast area of agricultural land is yet to be made cultivatable in the country particularly in Maharashtra and Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the financial assistance provided by the Union Government for bringing other land into agricultural purposes during each of the last three years, State- wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

(a)&(b) Yes Sir. It is estimated that there is 142.8 million ha. Cultivated land in the country of which 89.8 m.ha. is under rainfed agriculture. In case of Maharashtra and Karnataka the total cultivated area is 17.9 and 16.0 m.ha. respectively of which reinfed area is 10.6 and 8.3 m.ha. respectively. Under reinfed agriculture, the productivity levels vary widely due to various kinds of land degradations. There is significant potential to increase productivity of rainfed agricultural land through appropriate interventions.

(c) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing thefollowing land-based programmes in these two States for the development of degraded land and increasing agriculture productivity through watershed approach.

(i) Soil Conservation in the catchment of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers (FPR).

(ii) National Watershed Development Project in Rainfed Areas.
The financial assistance provided by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation to these States during the last three years is as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Maharashtra	33.54	33.20	43.60
Karnataka	18.46	30.50	31.15